

Ministers Celebrate Launch of India's First Quantum Ecosystem in Amaravati



Amaravati — Several ministers, including Atchannaidu, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, Vangalapudi Anita, BC Janardhan Reddy, and Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, have lauded the laying of the foundation stone for India's first quantum ecosystem in Amaravati as a historic milestone. They praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as a visionary leader with foresight for the country's future.

The ministers described the event as a crucial step in transforming Amaravati into a global technology centre. They emphasised that the project marks a significant chapter in the state's history, with Amaravati set to

evolve beyond its role as an administrative capital into a world-class hub for technology and innovation.

They reiterated the government's commitment to providing world-class jobs and opportunities for the youth of Andhra Pradesh and to developing Amaravati as a centre for future technologies. The foundation of the Amaravati Quantum Valley was hailed as a revolutionary move that will shape India's technological future.

The ministers also stated that the Quantum Valley will serve as a vital backbone for Andhra Pradesh's economy, positioning the state at the forefront of the global tech industry.

State govt to create herbal gardens in hospitals

Vijayawada: In a move aimed at enhancing patient well-being and creating a soothing environment in government hospitals, the state government has initiated the process of identifying suitable locations for setting up herbal gardens with walking tracks and other basic amenities.

Preparations are underway to establish medicinal plant gardens in government teaching hospitals, where flowering and herbal plants will be cultivated to provide a pleasant and calming atmosphere for patients and their attendants. Officials are surveying available spaces to develop these gardens with facilities such as walking tracks, benches and drinking water arrangements.

Health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said in a statement here on Friday that in the first phase, the government plans to set up herbal gardens in all teaching hospitals and super-specialty hospitals under the Directorate of Medical Education (DME). The initiative will cover DME-run teaching hospitals, SVIMS, ENT Hospital in Visakhapatnam, the Maternity Hospital in Tirupati, the Kidney Research Institute at Palasa and other specialty hospitals across the state. The Greening and Beautification Corporation will also be a key partner in developing these gardens. Depending on land availability within hospital premises, a wide range of medicinal plants such as Tulasi, amla, bilva, drumstick, ashwagandha, rosemary, ranapala,



aloe vera, Ashoka, turmeric and Brahmi will be planted. Officials said that each garden may house a minimum of 15 to 40 varieties of medicinal plants, with at least half an acre of land being developed wherever feasible.

Walking tracks will be created to allow patients and attendants to relax and rejuvenate. Special consideration is also being given to medical students, with the gardens serving as learning spaces for medicinal and aromatic plants, said Avula Chandrasekhar, chief executive officer of the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Board. The project will also receive financial support from donors.

The initiative follows directions issued by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during a recent departmental review, reinforcing the government's focus on holistic healthcare and green hospital campuses.

Fire Breaks Out at Hyderabad Forensic Lab, DCP briefs on incident

A major fire erupted on Saturday at the Forensic Laboratory near Nampally police station. The blaze originated on the first floor of the building, damaging important documents. Hyderabad Police Central Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police, K. Shilpavalli, provided details, confirming that the fire has now been brought under control.

The DCP explained that authorities received a call about the fire at 10:00 AM. She attributed the cause to a short circuit. The laboratory is used for crime investigation and evidence management. It remains unclear whether any crucial files were destroyed, though the first floor houses computers and other key equipment.

Shilpavalli stated that five fire engines assisted in extinguishing the flames. The fire was first noticed by an office boy working in the building, who alerted the authorities and attempted to



douse the fire himself. During the incident, he fell ill and was transported to hospital via an 108 ambulance. Four

employees were inside the building at the time but escaped safely after noticing the fire.

YS Jagan congratulates Indian U-19 Cricket Team for winning World Cup



YSRCP Chief and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has expressed his delight at India's historic victory in the Under-19 Cricket World Cup. He extended his congratulations to the team members and wished them continued success in their future endeavours. In a tweet on his X account, he said, "Hearty congratulations to our Under-19 team for winning the World Cup. The country is immensely proud of the determination and discipline you displayed on the field. These young players are talented individuals who will illuminate the future of India. I wish that with this victory, you will reach more milestones and achieve new successes. My best wishes to the entire team."

No hike in electricity tariffs: Minister Gottipati

Giddalur: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar announced that the coalition government has not increased electricity charges by a single rupee since taking office and will not do so in future. He participated in the poster launch programme of Pakala Beach Festival, scheduled for February 14-15, at Giddalur in Markapuram district on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasised that tourism development would create employment opportunities for local youth. The Minister urged residents to support the festival, noting that approximately 1,100 rooms are available

near Chirala and Suryalanka beaches for tourists.

At another programme in Kasinapalli village, Minister Ravi Kumar inaugurated 33/11 KV substation costing Rs 3.9 crore. He revealed that 200 substations are being constructed across the State to address low-voltage and power interruption issues, following Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's directives.

Ravi Kumar explained that the RDSS scheme is being implemented across the State with feeder-level bifurcation, ensuring 24-hour electricity supply in rural areas and uninterrupted 9-



hour quality power for agriculture. He said that in the erstwhile Prakasam district, RDSS works worth Rs 650 crore are 68 per

cent complete. He announced that statewide infrastructure, including 132, 220, and 400 KV substations and power lines, is

being developed with an investment of approximately Rs 7,000 crore. The Minister highlighted that the government achieved a 13-paise true-down tariff reduction and reversed the previous administration's 40-paise increase. He criticised the former YSRCP government for purchasing electricity at high prices, burdening people with a debt of Rs 30,000 crore. Minister Gottipati encouraged citizens to utilise PM Suryaghar scheme, offering a government subsidy of Rs 78,000 and free installation for SC/ST consumers, with 30-year benefits through rooftop solar panels.

International Institute of Nadi Astrology offers online course

International institute of Nadi Astrology & Vedic Sciences (IINAV) is offering a comprehensive online course in Nadi Astrology designed for enthusiasts and practitioners seeking advanced predictive techniques.

The course, led by Pt. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar

Srivastava, an internationally renowned Nadi astrologer begins on 21st February and 7th March 2026. The six-month program is conducted online with 2 hours of interactive sessions per week allowing participants worldwide to learn from the comfort of their home.

The curriculum covers the most advanced predictive techniques of Nadi Astrology, empowering students to gain deep insights into personal, professional, and spiritual guidance through this ancient practice.

"Our vision is simple yet profound," says Pt. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Srivastava, "Every home—one astrologer and wisdom. Through this course, we aim to make the knowledge of Nadi Astrology accessible to all."

Registration Details:

* Phone: +91 9810227498

* Instagram: @Sanjeev_astro

Website <https://www.nadiastrologyworld.com>

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced practitioner, this course offers a rare opportunity to learn predictive Nadi Astrology from a globally recognized expert deepen your understanding, and apply these ancient insights in practical life.

--By Dr. Seshni Moodliar Rensburg?United Kingdom / India?Doctor, Psychiatrist, Writer, Poet & Cultural Commentator

Harikatha performances must adapt to the changing times:

- Dr. P. Raghu, Retired Commissioner of Income Tax Department



Chikkadapally February 07 Metro Udayam : In today's era of increasing technological advancements, traditional art forms must adapt to the changing times, said Dr. P. Raghu, a retired Commissioner of the Income Tax Department. As part of the Harikatha week being organized by Kinnera Arts Theatres at Shankar Mutt in Nallakunta, to commemorate the birthday of former government advisor Dr. K.V. Ramana, the Harikatha performance of 'Dakshayagnam' by R. Bhagavatarini (Ranga Reddy) was presented with great interest. Speaking as the chief guest at the subsequent program, Dr. Raghu said that Harikatha performances have contributed to the enrichment of the Telugu language. G. Vallishwar, a member of the governing body of the National Book Trust of India, said that Harikatha performances are still relevant today. He added that Harikatha performers need support from both the government and the public for their livelihood. Literary figure Harshavardhan and Dr. K.V. Ramana participated in the program, and Kinnera Raghuram extended a welcome.

Women's development is the government's objective

- **Jepalli Sarpanch Amina Ashok Rathod at the inauguration of the women's association building in Dodlapalli**

Charakonda, February 07 Metro Udayam : Jepalli Sarpanch Amina Ashok Rathod stated that the Congress government is working for the development of women. On Saturday, Sarpanch Amina Ashok Rathod, along with Deputy Sarpanch Vankeshwaram Madhu, ward members, and villagers, performed the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Grama Samakhya Women's Association building in Dodlapalli, under the Jepalli Gram Panchayat in Charakonda mandal. The building is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. Speaking on the occa-



sion, Sarpanch Amina Ashok Rathod said that the Congress government in Telangana is working towards women's empowerment. She urged women to utilize the government schemes implemented for their benefit. She stated that village development is the primary objective of their government. She men-

tioned that the government is focusing special attention on education, women's welfare, and housing needs of the poor, and that the development works being undertaken in the village will be beneficial for future generations. The villagers expressed their happiness over the sanction of funds. The leaders

assured that the works would be completed with quality and made available soon. PR AE Divya, Secretary Mallesh Yadav, ward members Naresh, Bhasha, Bhaskar, former Deputy Sarpanch Madhavareddy, villagers, members of women's associations, and other village residents participated in the program.

"BRS campaign reaches every doorstep in Bhainsa municipal elections"

In-charge Jakka Venkat Reddy and key leaders actively participated in the vigorous campaign. Medipally, February:07 (Metro Udayam)

Under the leadership of Bhainsa Municipality In-charge Jakka Venkat Reddy, coordination committee members Vilas Gadewar, Dr. Kiran Komrewar, former ZP Chairman Lolam Shyam Sundar, and Dr. Padakanti Ramadevi conducted extensive campaigning in various wards on Saturday. BRS cadres undertook padayatras (foot marches) to reach every street and every house, explaining to the people the development programs undertaken by the BRS government in the past. They reminded the people of the crucial role played by the BRS



government in the development of Telangana state and appealed to them to vote for the BRS candidates by casting their vote on the car symbol. Party leaders stated that the campaign received an overwhelm-

ing response from the public, clearly demonstrating the people's faith in the BRS leadership once again. On this occasion, BRS leaders revealed that their goal is the development of Bhainsa town, its infra-

structure, and public welfare. In-charge Jakka Venkat Reddy stated that they will further intensify the campaign in the Bhainsa Municipality area with the aim of securing a victory for the BRS party. Present at the event were BRS General Secretary Yedavalli Raghuvardhan Reddy, former corporators Donthiri Harishankar Reddy, Kolthuri Mahesh, Lethakula Raghupathi Reddy, Working President Enugu Manoranjan Reddy, Pingali Jogireddy, Bullet Shankar, and Gopal. Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Shekhar, Akkala Srinivas, Tirupati Reddy, Balakrishna, Vijay, Kiran Naik, Akshit Yadav, Anil, Venkataiah, Ramesh, Nagireddy, Lokesh, and many other key leaders and activists participated in large numbers.

Shashi Tharoor Slams Washington Post Over Son Ishaan's Layoff, Calls It 'Bizarre'

Senior Congress leader and MP Shashi Tharoor has strongly criticised The Washington Post for laying off his son, journalist Ishaan Tharoor, describing the decision as "bizarre" and a self-destructive business move. The layoffs are part of a sweeping restructuring at the Jeff Bezos-owned newspaper that has seen more than 300 journalists lose their jobs globally. Reacting on social media, Shashi Tharoor highlighted the success of Ishaan's WorldView newsletter, which he said had more than 500,000 individual subscribers and a strong international readership. He argued that shutting down such a widely followed platform made little commercial sense. "The bizarre thing about this so-called 'business decision' is that Ishaan Tharoor's column flourished online, with over half a million subscribers," Tharoor wrote. He added

that global leaders, diplomats and scholars regularly read the newsletter, and suggested that monetising such reach would have been logical instead of abolishing it, calling the move a "perverse act of self-immolation". The Washington Post recently announced one of the largest workforce reductions in its nearly 150-year history, eliminating roughly one-third of its newsroom positions. Executive Editor Matt Murray described the decision as painful but necessary, citing declining digital traffic and financial losses reportedly nearing \$100 million in recent years. Ishaan Tharoor, a global affairs columnist who anchored the WorldView column, confirmed his layoff on social media. Expressing heartbreak over the newsroom cuts, he said he had built the newsletter since 2017 to help readers better

understand global affairs and America's role in the world. He thanked the more than half a million loyal readers who followed the column over the years. The restructuring has significantly altered the newspaper's operations, with entire departments such as sports being dismantled, foreign bureaus scaled back, and long-running sections like books discontinued. Several international correspondents, editors and staff across business and audio teams were also affected, including the paper's Delhi bureau chief, Pranshu Verma. The layoffs underscore the broader challenges facing legacy media organisations as they grapple with falling readership, shrinking advertising revenue and shifts in how audiences consume news in the digital age.

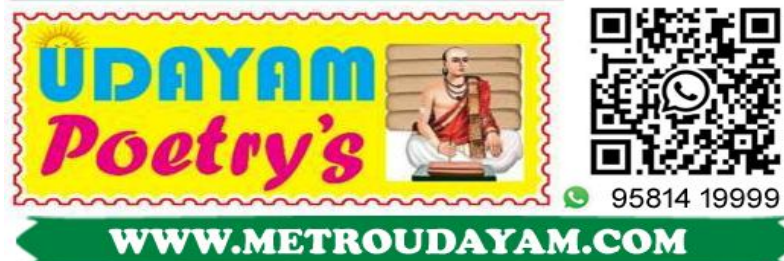
Lead India's path to success:Kondal puli



Jangaon, February 7, Metroudayam:

For class 10th students today at ZPHS SCHOOL, Malleshpally organized success word program for students how to write class 10th exam how to overcome exam stress, memory techniques, importance of class 10th and role of parents teachers in student's life

A group of school teachers MEO and HM Nageshwar and Malleshpally CI Ramesh participated in this program for orientation to 200 students



WORLD OF COMPETITION!

Economics say,
Demand supply
theory!
Less the quantity
more the demand!

Such we see today
in competition world!
Each and everyone
rush!
Talented only catch!

Whatever filed we touch!
May be education, it may
be employment!
Or any new invention!

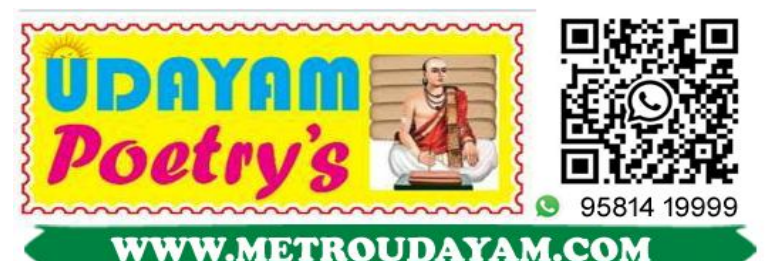
Nothing possible without
competition!
None is exceptional!
Hard work, intelligence
Activeness!
Acquiring latest developments!

Is must to all to compete!
Lag behind in any latest
knowledge!
Show us the out way gate!

Fear not, face the challenge!
After all it is a competition
world!



Composed by:
B. Satyanarayana Rao,
(Ba. Sa. Raa)
Vijayawada.



ईश्वर किसी को भी यह हक नहीं दिया
है के लोगों को अपने खुद के विच,
रसरणी के अनुसार जीवन बिताने के
लिए मजबूर किया जाये। ... (शकील
उवाच - ६१०)

इंसान को अपने
नुकसान के बारे में सोचते रहना
चाहिए और उस हानी से बचने के
लिये अमल (कर्म) करना चाहिए।
गौरी फिक्र (चिंतन और मनन)
करने से आदमी हक (सत्य) से
कभी वंचित नहीं रहता। बल्कि
अवल को इस्तेमाल करके ही
आदमी लाभान्वित हो सकता है।
आदमी को अपनी घाटे के बारे में
सोचना चाहिए ऐसा मैं नहीं बल्कि
पवित्र कुरआन भी आदेश देता है।
पवित्र कुरआन में कहा गया है के,
"तो इंसान को अपने घाटे ही की
तरफ गौर करना चाहिए।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक ८०,
सुरह अबस, आयत क्रमांक २४)।



कुछ लोग यह भी कहते हैं के, क्या तुम्हारा ईश्वर
इतनी भी शक्ती नहीं रखता के एक व्यक्ति उसके धर्म के विरोध में
आवरण करता है तो उसे रोक सके? यह सवाल अवसर जिन्हें
ईश्वर की ओर से इंसानों को कर्मों में दी गई आजादी (स्वतंत्रता)
समझ में नहीं आती वहीबकर्ते हैं। बेशक ईश्वर अगर चाहता तो,
अपनी शक्ति से सभी को बुरे कर्मों से रोक सकता है और सभी को
विश्वासी बना सकता है, लेकिन उसने मनुष्य को कर्म करने की
स्वतंत्रता दी है, इसलिए वह अपनी मर्जी (इच्छा) को कभी भी
जबरदस्ती किसी पर लादता नहीं है।

धर्म के विषय में कोई जबरदस्ती नहीं है। क्यों के
सही बात गलत बात, धर्म और अधर्म, सत्य और असत्य एक दूसरे
से अलग छंट कर रख दी गई है। अब जिस किसीने अधर्म, असत्य
का इनकार करके खुदा (ईश्वर) को माना उसने एक मजबूत सहारा
प्राप्त किया जो कभी टूटने वाला नहीं। यह उस ईश्वर का सहारा है
जो इंद्रिय रहित होकर भी सब कुछ सुनने वाला, देखने वाला और
जानने वाला है।

पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "दीन (धर्म) में
किसी तरह की जबरदस्ती नहीं क्योंकि हिदायत गुमराही
(पथप्रदर्शकता पथभ्रष्टता) से अलग जाहिर (प्रकट) हो चुकी है तो
जिस शरय ने झूठे खुदाओं से इनकार किया और खुदा (ईश्वर) ही
पर ईमान लाया तो उसने वह मजबूत रखी पकड़ ली जो टूट ही
नहीं सकती और खुदा (सब कुछ) सुनता (और) जानता है।" (पवित्र
कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक ०२, सुरह अल बकरा, अध्याय क्रमांक
२५६)।

ईमान लाने के लिए किसीको मजबूर नहीं किया जा
सकता। किसे ईमान की दौलत से मालामाल करना है और किसे
इस ईमान (विश्वास) की दौलत से महरूम (वंचित) करना है यह
ईश्वर ही के हाथ में है। कौन ईमान के लायक (योग्य) है और
कौन ईमान के योग्य नहीं है, यह वही ईश्वर जानता है जो सबका
सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा है। वही बेहतर फैसला करने वाला है
और वही न्यायपूर्ण विधान से सबकुछ अता (प्रदान) करने वाला है।
ईश्वर किसी को भी यह हक नहीं दिया है के लोगों को अपने
खुद के विचारसरणी के अनुसार जीवन बिताने के लिए मजबूर
किया जाये।

पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "और ऐ पैगंबर ख.
!) अगर तेरा ख चाहता तो जितने लोग रु ए जमीन (पृथ्वी तल)
पर है सब के सब ईमान (विश्वास) ले आते। तो क्या तुम लोगों पर
जबरदस्ती करना चाहते हो ताकि सब के सब ईमानदार हो जाएँ?"
हवाकि किसी शरय को यह इस्तिहार नहीं कि बगैर इज्जे खुदा
(ईश्वर के अनुमति के बगैर) ईमान (विश्वास) ले आये। (पवित्र
कुरआन, अध्याय १०, सुरह सूनस, आयत क्रमांक ९९)।

उपरोक्त आयत से यह भी साबित होता है के, किसी
भी व्यक्ति यहां मजबूर नहीं है बल्कि अपने फैसले करने की कुदरत
(शक्ती) रखता है। और यह कुदरत (शक्ती) उसे उसके सृष्टिकर्ता
पालनहार परमात्मा ने दे रखा है। परमात्मा ने हर एक को यह
आजादी (स्वतंत्रता) दे रखा है के चाहे वह ईश्वर पर विश्वास ले
आये या ना ले आये यह उसकी अपनी मर्जी है। अगर ईश्वर यह
स्वतंत्रता ना देता और अपनी इच्छा को ही लागू करता तो कोई भी
व्यक्ति इस पृथ्वी पर धर्म और ईश्वर के विरोध में ना जाता।
लेकिन एक बात सच है वह ईश्वर हमें इसी तरह से आजमाना
(परखना) चाहता है।

-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील मंवर), मंवर, पुणे
(महाराष्ट्र) भारत

NEW POEMS IN NEW LANGUAGE.

Vijay Koganti is a well known poet,
author and translator in Telugu and
English. He has half a dozen of
anthologies of short stories and
poems to his credit, besides scores
of critical writings. This is his latest
anthology of 70 and odd poems in
Telugu which he penned in the last
five years.

I have reviewed a couple of works
by Vijay and one striking feature of
the present anthology is that the
poet here appears more matured
and sensitive. Many of these
pieces are reflective poems, deliver
a power packed punch in your face
or press you to sit down and medi-
tate on the sensitive thoughts and
feelings of the poet.

Take the poem, AE DHE NIJAM
wherein the poet questions the
present divisive forces and asserts
vehemently that your God is your
Man, Man's Religion is Man;

AE vargam, ae desam
Evai kulaam, ae di balaam
Evaru pedha, evaru chinna
AE di matam, ae di hitam

Ni Devudu ni manishae
Ni matam ni manishae

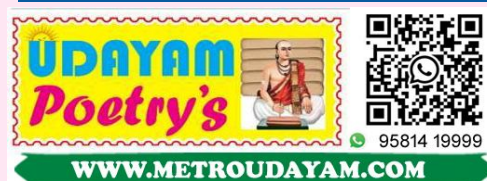
Another poem, Nenu Antte, goes like
a simple dialogue between a par-
ent and a child where the parent
goes on explaining the meaning of
the word Nenu but suddenly the
parent realizes the profound all
embracing philosophical meaning
of that simple word when the child
says innocently;

Nenu antte neevu kuda kada?

Ila Prasalugane is yet another pow-
erful poem full of telling figures of
speech studded beautifully both in
the opening and closing stanzas;

Ratruenduku nijaaalai dukistayi
Pagalenduku abadaalai navuutayi

SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW



Chuttapu choopuga
Vachina svasha
Akasha mai Aendhuku
Ma ra li pothundi

The titular poem, AEVARI DEE
CHOOPU is a seventeen verse
one packed with dark nagging
thoughts about shattered
dreams, the longing
lingering looks of the helpless, and
stinking state callousness that
remind us of the times of Nero;

Tagala badu thunna
Nagaram mundu
Kuu chuni vaayudhya
Vino daana munigina
Niyanthala do

All these poems have one common
feature in them, that of consuring
stunning, arresting imagery, and
superb symbolic expressions.

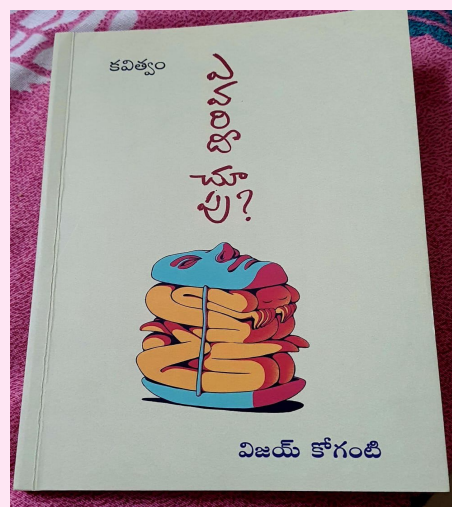
Poems such as, AYI PO, MRUTHU
GHOSHA, EPUDU EMI
KAVALI, MUSAI
TALUPULU, POTHA AV POTUN-
NAV, AMANUSHA DUUKAM are
packed with new thoughts and
musings that make deep impact on
the readers.

How can the reader remain
untouched when the poet asks pro-
found questions like:

1) Why happiness evaporates in
smiles but sorrow builds a nest in
the heart?

2) Without cooling, why the rain
wind arrives, carrying so many sto-
ries?

3) What tune is the song of filthy
cultured, inhuman man looking for?



4) Why some nights, even some
mornings remain as questions?

5) For how long should we shine
using the names of old dimming
suns?

6) How long should we stick to old
cracking flag posts?

There are many more such stun-
ning ways of new words and new
expressions used in this collec-
tion. Yes this collection is different
in one more way.
To become a great poet, a poet
must invent a new language and
idiom of his own and this anthology
supports amply my feeling that
Vijay has arrived.

Only announcement of awards is
due.

M SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
HOD DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
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GANDHINAGAR
HYDERABAD 500020



5th Ward will be made ideal in

Jangaon municipal: TRP candidate Renukuntla Murali bindla

Jangaon, February 7, Metroudayam:

Renukuntla Murali, a retired head master,
Telangana activist, multi-talented, academician,
poet, singer, writer, social worker, who is con-
testing from the 5th ward of the Telangana
Rajyadhikshara Party, TRP in the Janagama
municipal elections, said that he will solve the
problems in the 5th ward and undertake devel-
opment work such as health and education,
drainage, drinking water etc., He vowed to be
available always to the people and ready to
serve and listen attentively, and assured that
people from all voters in the 5th ward would
cast their precious votes and win with a large
majority.

Massive Congress Joinings in Manikeshwari Nagar



...Party Gains Strength Under Gandikota Kumar, Adam Santosh Kumar's Leadership

Hyderabad, metro undayam Feb. 7 : The Congress party is witnessing a steady rise in political strength in the Secunderabad Assembly constituency. A massive joining programme was organised at Manikeshwari Nagar under the leadership of Vaddera Basthee President and Utsava Committee member Gandikota Kumar, where leaders, activists, basti elders and representatives of various caste and trade

associations joined the Congress party in large numbers. The programme was held in the presence of Congress contested MLA and constituency in-charge Adam Santosh Kumar. Addressing the gathering, Adam Santosh Kumar said the party is moving forward with a focused strategy to secure a decisive victory in all divisions of the Secunderabad constituency in the forthcoming GHMC elections. He stated that the Congress leadership has taken recent electoral setbacks seriously and is strengthening the party through continuous public



engagement. A large rally from Manikeshwari Nagar Main Road became the main attraction of the event, with Congress flags and slogans filling the area and energising party cadres. Speaking on the occasion, Gandikota Kumar said the massive joinings reflect the growing public confidence in the Congress party. He assured that special efforts would be made to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and ensure victory in the S e e t h a p h a l m a n d i Division. Those who joined the Congress party include Vemula Ganesh, Alakunta

Mallikarjun, Gandikota Kumar, Sirasa Venkatesh and Orsu Naresh, along with representatives from Auto Associations, Compression Association, Alakunta Society, Dakshinadi Sangham, Trishakti Association, Vegetable Vendors Association and Alluri Sitaramaraju Association. Several senior Congress leaders, party workers, local public representatives, women leaders, youth wing members and residents participated in the programme in large numbers.

Sports boost self-confidence and instill a sense of self-reliance.

Hyderabad, February 7: Metro Udayam

Sports boost self-confidence and instill a sense of self-reliance, said Maheshwar, Chairman of the Taekwondo Championship Association, General Secretary Mir Wahaj Ali Khan, and Treasurer Maruthi Varaprasad. The 9th Telangana State Taekwondo Championship, Sub-Junior and Senior 2026 competitions were held grandly at the Gachibowli Stadium. On this occasion, they attended and inaugu-



rated the competitions. Speaking afterward, they suggested that everyone should necessarily learn martial arts in the current circum-

stances. They said that it helps in self-defense and also improves physical fitness. They emphasized the importance of nurturing

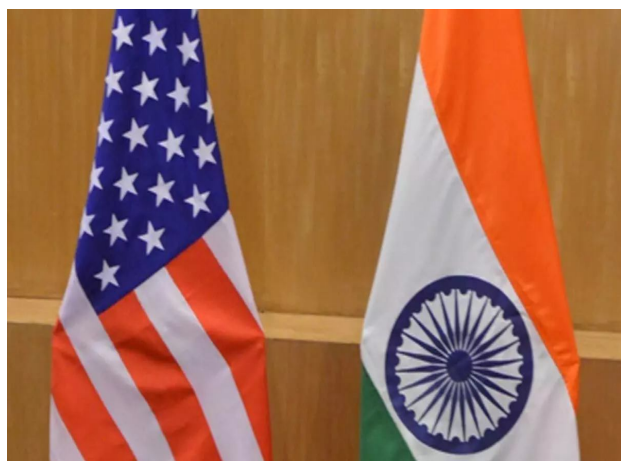
children and shaping them into excellent sports persons. They advised that victory and defeat are common in every competition, and one should not be disheartened by defeat. They said that with another attempt, success will surely follow. 600 people participated in these competitions. Working President Gurram Krishna, Narasimha, B. Krishna, and Ramesh presented certificates to the winners. The sports persons participated in the event.

Health industry welcomes interim bilateral trade agreement between India, US

As part of the interim framework, the US will slash reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent. The US will also remove the reciprocal tariff on generic pharmaceuticals, among other sectors like gems and diamonds, and aircraft parts.

Although full details are yet to emerge, the interim India-US trade deal framework indicates that India has received the "best deal" from the United States compared to others, including all its neighbours.

"AiMeD welcomes the US-India joint statement on trade barriers and clarifies that CDSCO import licenses for US devices are already faster than for Indian manufacturers, who face mandatory inspections unlike overseas firms," said Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, the Association of Indian



Medical Devices (AiMeD).

"The US leads imports at Rs 14,000 crore (20 per cent share), surpassing China's Rs 12,000 crore, with our US exports at \$750 million vs. \$1.6 billion imports last year. US FDA's preference for ACSA over NABL labs adds asymmetry. Indian medtech battles Chinese WANA dumping, EU CE delays, Japan's yen weakness, and

Indonesia's biases, plus CDSCO hurdles. We urge reciprocal fairness, making trade mutually advantageous to empower both nations' innovations," he added.

Further, the agreement noted that, based on the findings of the US Section 232 investigation of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients, India will also receive negotiated outcomes with respect to generic pharmaceuticals and ingredients.

"Strengthening the India-US medicines partnership is important, as medicine security is a part of national security. Generics are exempted from tariffs. As noted in the joint statement, overall pharmaceuticals (including generics) are subject to ongoing US Section 232 investigation. This is consistent with the approach across FTAs," added Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance.

Harikatha... A confluence of all arts:

- High Court Retired Judge Justice Nuti Ramamohan Rao

- The 'Bhakta Kuchela' Harikatha performance captivated the audience



Chikkadapally, February 07 Metro Udayam : High Court Retired Judge Justice Nuti Ramamohan Rao stated that Harikatha is a confluence of arts, blending dance, music, acting, and literature. As part of the Harikatha Saptaham (week-long Harikatha festival) being held at the Shankara Math in Nallakunta,



organized by Kinnara Arts Theatres on the occasion of Dr. K.V. Ramana's birthday, the 'Bhakta Kuchela' Harikatha performance by Nayani Krishnakumari (Poddutur) was presented beautifully and captivantly. Speaking as the chief guest at the event, Justice Ramamohan Rao praised Ramanachari for his kind-hearted efforts in encouraging Harikatha, Burrakatha, and Telangana folk artists, and for his dedication to the preservation of these art forms. Dr. Ramana, Rayasam Venkata Ramaiah, and others participated in the program, and Kinnara Raghuram extended the welcome.

5th Ward will be made ideal in Jangaon municipal:

TRP candidate Renukuntla Murali bindla



Jangaon, February 7, Metro Udayam:

Renukuntla Murali, a retired head master, Telangana activist, multi-talented, academician, poet, singer, writer, social worker, who is contesting from the 5th ward of the Telangana Rajyadhikara Party, TRP in the Janagama municipal elections, said that he will solve the problems in the 5th ward and undertake development work such as health and education, drainage, drinking water etc., He vowed to be available always to the people and ready to serve and listen attentively, and assured that people from all voters in the 5th ward would cast their precious votes and win with a large majority.

U19 WORLD CUP 2026 : India clinch 6th title with 100-run victory

Harare: Cricket's latest wunderkind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi played arguably the most breathtaking knock in the history of U-19 World Cup to fire India to a record-extending sixth title with a 100-run drubbing of England in the summit clash here on Friday.

Sooryavanshi's 80-ball 175, which comprised a record 15 sixes and as many fours, propelled India to an imposing 411 for 9 after England opted to bowl first. Bruised and battered following Sooryavanshi's brutal onslaught, England's innings ended at 311 in 40.2 overs.

Sooryavanshi fires India to record-extending sixth title

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Bruised and battered following Sooryavanshi's brutal onslaught, England's innings ended at 311 in 40.2 overs after being set an improbable target of 412 against a well-rounded bowling attack.

Caleb Falconer top-scored for England with a scintillating 67-ball 115, leaving a lasting impression on the biggest stage while helping his side reduce the margin of defeat.

This was after the 14-year-old Sooryavanshi produced a knock for the



ages and raced to the three-figure mark in a mere 55 balls to become the second fastest centurion in this competition. The triumph, which ensured India's continued dominance in the age-group showpiece, could be attributed to a robust domestic structure, vast talent pool, exposure to advanced coaching, high-quality preparation, and passion for the game among the country's youth.

India last won the tournament in 2022.

Once India crossed 400 in the final, they were the overwhelming favourites to emerge victorious, and that is exactly how the script panned out, with the bowlers performing as a collective outfit.

To some extent, the achievement bore

resemblance to the exploits of world-class Indian U-19 teams of the past that featured the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but this side led by Ayush Mhatre has carved a niche of its own, especially in terms of sheer ruthlessness, and no one exemplifies that better than that raging force called Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Sooryavanshi's knock is the record for the best individual score in a U-19 World Cup final and is also the highest team total in the summit showdown of the tournament. The opener exploded when it mattered the most, reaching his fifty in just 32 balls and continued in the same vein to torment the English bowlers with his wide range of strokes. His second fifty came off just 23 balls.

As many as 150 off his 175 runs came off boundaries thanks to his 15 sixes and as many fours during a knock in which he literally toyed with the opposition attack and turned the Harare Sports Club into his playground.

He now holds the record for most sixes in a Youth ODI innings, surpassing his own 14 maximums against UAE at ICCA Dubai in December.

Suryavanshi now also has the fastest 150 (off 71 balls) in U-19 cricket, bettering the 98 balls taken by England's Ben Mayes against Scotland at the same venue earlier in the competition.

To put things into perspective, Vedant Trivedi saw Sooryavanshi celebrate both his 100 and 150 while facing only four balls between the two landmarks.

Such was Sooryavanshi's onslaught that India's run rate was around 10 at the halfway mark and the projected total was

500 at that stage of the game.

However, the boy from Bihar's Samastipur, after leaving the cricket world awestruck in little less than two hours, got out in the 26th over while trying to scoop Manny Lumsden, only to get his glove for wicketkeeper Thomas Rew to complete a catch down the leg side off a short of a length ball from around the wicket.

Relieved, the England players ran towards Sooryavanshi to congratulate him for playing an innings that one doesn't get to see often in a World Cup final. Sooryavanshi put on 142 runs in just 19 overs with his skipper Ayush Mhatre, who departed following a 51-ball 53 immediately after bringing up his half-century alone, leapfrogging South Africa's Dewald Brevis, whose record of 18 sixes had stood since 2022.

Sooryavanshi has also become the youngest centurion in the history of the tournament. He was severe on all the English bowlers, and among the worst sufferers were left-arm spinner Ralphie Albert and off-spinner Farhad Ahmed, who were clobbered for 27 and 22 runs respectively.

Manny Lumsden leaked 81 runs in eight overs, while Sebastian Morgan gave away 74 in his nine overs.

After Sooryavanshi's dismissal, Abhigyan Kundu (40 off 31 balls), Vedant Trivedi (32 off 36), Vihaan Malhotra (30 off 36) and Kanishk Chouhan (37 off 20) chipped in with useful contributions, and even though England did manage to pull things back a bit, they were not allowed to dictate.

Amaravati gears up for quantum tech revolution

Vijayawada: In a move aimed at enhancing patient well-being and creating a soothing environment in government hospitals, the state government has initiated the process of identifying suitable locations for setting up herbal gardens with walking tracks and other basic amenities.



Preparations are underway to establish medicinal plant gardens in government teaching hospitals, where flowering and herbal plants will be cultivated to provide a pleasant and calming atmosphere for patients and their attendants. Officials are surveying available spaces to develop these gardens with facilities such as walking tracks, benches and drinking water arrangements.

Health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said in a statement here on Friday that in the first phase, the government plans to set up herbal gardens in all teaching hospitals and super-specialty hospitals under the Directorate of Medical Education (DME). The initiative will cover DME-run teaching hospitals, SVIMS, ENT Hospital in Visakhapatnam, the Maternity Hospital in Tirupati, the Kidney Research Institute at Palasa and other specialty hospitals across the state.

The Greening and Beautification Corporation will also be a key partner in developing these gardens. Depending on land availability within hospital premises, a wide range of medicinal plants such as Tulasi, amla, bilva, drumstick, ashwagandha, rosemary, ranapala, aloe vera, Ashoka, turmeric and Brahmi will be planted. Officials said that each garden may house a minimum of 15 to 40 varieties of medicinal plants, with at least half an acre of land being developed wherever feasible. Walking tracks will be created to allow patients and attendants to relax and rejuvenate. Special consideration is also being given to medical students, with the gardens serving as learning spaces for medicinal and aromatic plants, said Avula Chandrasekhar, chief executive officer of the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Board. The project will also receive financial support from donors. The initiative follows directions issued by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during a recent departmental review, reinforcing the government's focus on holistic healthcare and green hospital campuses.

Uttarakhand CM Dhami declares film 'Godaan' tax-free; promotes cultural, rural values

New Delhi: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed that the Hindi film 'Godaan' be made tax-free in the state, citing its strong emphasis on Indian culture, rural life, farmer traditions, and the importance of cow protection.

The move is aimed at encouraging socially meaningful cinema and ensuring wider public access to films that reflect India's cultural and ethical values.

The film, which was released nationwide on February 6, highlights the religious, social, and practical significance of the cow in Indian society.

Chief Minister Dhami said that the cow is not merely associated with religion or faith but is an integral part of Indian culture, social structure, and the rural economy. He noted that films like 'Godaan' help nurture positive thinking and social sensitivity and should therefore be actively promoted.

The Chief Minister further stated that the decision aligns with the Uttarakhand government's zero-tolerance policy against cow slaughter and smuggling. He emphasised that the state government has been continuously working towards cow protection and welfare.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to promote cow shelters across the state to ensure proper care of abandoned and stray cattle. Additionally, livestock



owners and dairy farmers are being supported through various government schemes aimed at increasing their income and strengthening the rural economy.

Directed by Ameet Prajapati, 'Godaan' has a runtime of 2 hours and 10 minutes. The film stars Sahil Anand, Upasana Singh, Rajesh Jais, and Manoj Joshi in lead roles. Through its narrative, the film presents a compassionate portrayal of rural life while addressing contemporary social realities.

According to BookMyShow, 'Godaan' is described as "a tale of compassion, culture, and social reality," reminding audiences of India's roots and questioning how far society has progressed in pre-

serving its traditions and values.

Chief Minister Dhami also said that the Uttarakhand government will continue to encourage films and creative works based on social, cultural, and public-interest themes in the future, as they play a vital role in preserving heritage and spreading awareness.

Meanwhile, extending similar support, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on February 6, 2026, announced that 'Godaan' would be made tax-free in Uttar Pradesh with immediate effect, further boosting the film's reach and reinforcing the message of cultural values and cow protection across states.

Erra Cheera – The Beginning: A perfect blend of horror, emotion, and mother sentiment

"Erra Cheera – The Beginning" arrives as a refreshing entry in Telugu cinema's horror-suspense space, blending supernatural thrills with a strong emotional core rooted in mother sentiment. Releasing in theatres today, the film stands out for its unique narrative approach that goes beyond routine horror tropes, offering audiences a gripping experience that balances fear, emotion, and mystery. With its intense storytelling and emotionally charged theme, the film positions itself as a different and engaging horror thriller.

Story:

The story revolves around Dasu (Kamal Kamaraju), who falls in love with Avantika (Karunya Chowdary) and marries her. However, their happiness is brutally shattered when Dasu's grandmother, Pannee Parvathi, kills Avantika over a property dispute. After her death, Avantika transforms into a restless spirit, wandering in a terrifying form in search of her lost mother.



Parallely, police officer Shivakumar (Suman Babu), who is transferred to the city, begins noticing eerie similarities between the spirit in the red saree and his own deceased mother-in-law. As supernatural incidents intensify, a powerful spiritual figure, Saripoka Trikoteswara Swamy, enters the narrative to unravel the mystery. The film builds suspense around the identity of the spirit, the emotional truth behind her suffering, and the spiritual resolution that follows.

Performances:

Suman Babu delivers a powerful performance in dual roles, impressing both as an actor and as

the creative force behind the film. His portrayal of the police officer is intense and convincing. Karunya Chowdary brings depth and intensity to Avantika's character, effectively carrying the emotional and horror layers. Baby Sai Tejaswini leaves a strong impact with her emotional performance. Supporting actors including Ali, Annapurnamma, Geetha Singh, Satya Krishnan, Bhadram, Jeeva, and Raghu Babu add solid support and balance to the narrative.

Technicalities:

Director Suman Babu's storytelling is confident and emotionally ground-

ed. The screenplay maintains suspense while allowing space for emotional connection. The background score elevates the horror mood, while dark-toned cinematography enhances the spooky atmosphere. The interval block and climax are particularly impactful, standing out as technical and narrative highs.

Analysis:

Inspired by a real-life incident, the film successfully blends horror, emotion, and mother sentiment into a compelling cinematic experience. The controlled presentation of fear makes it suitable even for family audiences, while the emotional depth adds lasting impact.

"Erra Cheera – The Beginning" is a well-crafted horror thriller that goes beyond scares, offering emotional depth and strong performances. With its mix of supernatural suspense and heartfelt mother sentiment, it delivers a unique, engaging, and memorable cinematic experience.

Twinkle Khanna indulges in a gluttony contest with hubby Akshay Kumar



Mumbai: Author and host Twinkle Khanna went on to share the three golden rules of gluttony in her latest social media post.

She treated her InstaFam with a couple of glimpses of herself indulging in a fun eating contest with her actor husband, Akshay Kumar.

While one of the photos showed Twinkle lovingly feeding Akshay, the other one had him showing her a fist while Twinkle relished her food.

Explaining the rules of gluttony in the caption, the 'Mela' actress shared, "Rule 1: Dessert always wins.?Rule 2: Pretending to share is mandatory, even if you have zero intention of it.?Rule 3: A mock punch is a valid negotiation tactic. Gluttony must be defended at all costs.?Verdict: Following these rules and getting fun pictures in the bargain is the literal version of eating your dessert and having it too (sic)."

Towards the end of the post, Twinkle asked, "Now tell me, who at your table would actually lose this battle? Tag them below."

Twinkle is known to speak her mind whenever she gets the opportunity.

Meanwhile, in a recent post on social media, Twinkle opened up about her journey of navigating life through menopause.

Thanking the Hormone Replacement Therapy for giving her a better sense of health and wellness, she penned on her IG, "At 52 and make-up free, I'd love to say that all you need is some great afternoon sun to feel and look good. But menopause is not that generous. I once joked that menopause is a bigger bitch than I have ever been. For a long stretch, it made me feel like I was a phone with a faulty charger. I feel better now, not because I 'accepted my age gracefully' (whatever that means), but thanks to regular weight training, a small pharmacy's worth of supplements, the joy and purpose I find in books (reading and writing) and because after 50 I've finally embraced my shallow side and play mahjong regularly with my girlfriends".

Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna to reunite for new romantic comedy with Badhaai Ho director

Mumbai: Bollywood stars Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna are set to team up once again for an untitled romantic comedy film directed by Amit Ravindernath Sharma, best known for his work on Badhaai Ho and Maidaan.

The announcement comes even before the theatrical release of their current collaboration, Cocktail 2, directed by Homi Adajania and co-starring Kriti Sanon. According to industry reports, Shahid and Rashmika, whose professional rapport strengthened during the shoot of Cocktail 2, have signed on to headline Sharma's next project.

The new film, backed by

producer Sunir Kheterpal under The Vermilion World banner in association with Jio Studios, is expected to blend romance and humour with emotional depth, offering a fresh take on the romantic comedy genre.

Although plot details and an official title are yet to be revealed, filming is anticipated to begin in August–September 2026, once both actors have completed their current commitments. Shahid and Rashmika's upcoming slate remains packed. Cocktail 2, the sequel to the 2012 romantic comedy classic, has completed filming and is widely expected to release later this year.



Their pairing has already generated significant buzz among audiences eager to see their chemistry on screen. Shahid Kapoor is also gearing up for the release of Vishal Bhardwaj's action thriller O' Romeo in

February, further underscoring a busy year ahead for the actor. Rashmika, meanwhile, continues to juggle projects across industries, maintaining a strong presence in both Hindi and South Indian cinema.

SVEP office inaugurated at Singanamala

Anantapur: The office building of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) was inaugurated at the MPDO office premises in Singanamala mandal on Friday, along with an awareness seminar aimed at promoting self-employment among rural youth.

Singanamala MLA Bandaru Sravani Sri inaugurated the SVEP office as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. She encouraged rural youth to explore self-employment opportunities and assured full government support for small and micro enterprises. Highlighting the importance of entrepreneurship in rural development, the MLA said initiatives such as SVEP would help create sustainable livelihood opportunities at



the village level and strengthen the rural economy. Sravani Sri expressed confidence that SVEP would play a key role in increasing employment avenues in villages by encouraging local business initiatives, especially among women and youth. She noted that access to training,

mentoring and financial linkages under the programme would empower aspiring entrepreneurs to start and expand small businesses.

The awareness session focused on the objectives of SVEP, eligibility criteria, and the support mechanisms available for rural entrepreneurs, including guidance in business planning and access to institutional credit.

Local officials, elected representatives, members of women self-help groups and beneficiaries attended the programme in large numbers. The event marked a significant step towards fostering entrepreneurship and self-reliance in Singanamala mandal under the rural livelihood mission.

KTR to Campaign in Kamareddy Ahead of Municipal Polls



BRS Working President K. T. R. will tour Kamareddy district today as part of the municipal election campaign. He is set to campaign in support of BRS candidates in Banswada, Bichkunda, and Yellareddy, arriving in the district Saturday afternoon. The leader will participate in rallies and corner meetings, aiming to highlight alleged failures of the Congress government, including broken promises and corruption, while showcasing the development achievements of the BRS regime. Preparations for KTR's visit are already underway, with local leaders including former MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan, Jajala Surender, and Hanmanth Shinde personally supervising arrangements. The rally sites in Banswada, Bichkunda, and Yellareddy have been decorated with pink flags in anticipation. In Banswada, KTR is scheduled to arrive in the afternoon and will lead a roadshow along the main road from the Koyyagutta Martyrs' Memorial. He will then address a public meeting at Ambedkar Chowrasta, expected to attract around ten thousand supporters, according to Bajireddy Govardhan.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup begins today: India runaway favourites in most politicised global cricket meet



It's the largest ever but also perhaps the most politically charged, with off-field drama hogging the limelight in a turbulent buildup. The T20 World Cup gets underway across three different venues in India and Sri Lanka on Saturday. And though the title favourites tag is firmly attached to the Suryakumar Yadav-led defending champion India, potential winners or players to look forward to have hardly been the talking point so far. It's been an unprecedented mixing of politics with sport in the run up to the event, which has expanded from 16 to 20 teams this time. Bangladesh have been ousted after refusing to play in India because of their security concerns and Pakistan have announced a boycott of their game against India as a gesture of support to them. Both countries have held India responsible for the turmoil, which began after Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman was released from an IPL contract on BCCI instructions. Bangladesh's refusal to be in India was also down to Rahman's exit, which hurt their "national pride". As a result, it would be Scotland padding up against the West Indies in Kolkata on Saturday. The entire drama got doubly intriguing after Pakistan decided to go on a proverbial fishing expedition in muddled waters by showing their solidarity looking at the bigger political picture. Pakistan had their Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, diving in to justify the decision, calling it appropriate. Even before a delivery has been bowled, ICC and its broadcasters are staring at potential losses while Pakistan is preparing for some severe sanctions that can have far-reaching consequences. While the recent Indo-Pak contests at global events have more often than not been lopsided, there is no denying the fact that the game still remains a cash-cow for the global cricket economy.

T20 WC 2026: Madushan approved as replacement for Malinga in Sri Lanka squad



Colombo: The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 on Friday approved Pramod Madushan as a replacement for Eshan Malinga in the Sri Lanka squad. "Madushan, a medium-fast bowler who has played 13 ODIs and eight T20Is, was named as a replacement after Malinga was ruled out following a shoulder injury sustained during the bilateral T20I against England on 1 February," ICC said in a statement. The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee (ETC) before the player can be officially added to the squad. Medhuasan, 24 years old and previously played for the Sri Lanka national cricket team in eight T20Is, taking 12 wickets at an average of 8.63 runs per over. Medhuasan also played against England in 2021 but was not included in the final 2020 ICC World Cup squad on 2 February 2023; curiously, he last played in an international T20I on 28 April 2023. With the pace bowling attack of Madushan, together with his team mates Matheesha Pathirana and Dushmantha Chameera, Sri Lanka will compete against Ireland at the R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo on February 8. Sri Lanka squad: Dasun Shanaka (c), Pathum Nissanka, Kamil Mishara, Kusal Mendis, Kamindu Mendis, Kusal Janith Perera, Charith Asalanka, Janith Liyanage, Pavan Rathnayake, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushmantha Chameera, Matheesha Pathirana, Pramod Madushan.

Payal Rajput opens up on industry pressures

Actress Payal Rajput, known for her impactful performances in films such as RX100, RDX Love, and Mangalavaram, has once again spoken candidly about the challenges she has faced in the film industry. In a recent post on social media platform X, the actress revealed that there have been moments when people wanted her to quit, but she remains determined to continue her journey.

Sharing her thoughts, Payal wrote that while she occasionally questions herself, she is reminded of the hard work she has put in over the past 12 years. She stated that even if failure comes her way, giving up is not an option for her. The post quickly drew attention for its honesty and resilience.

This is not the first time Payal has addressed industry realities. Last year, she openly spoke about nepotism and favoritism overshadowing talent in cinema. Describing acting as one of the toughest professions, she highlighted the daily uncertainty actors face and expressed concern over opportunities often going to those with influential backgrounds.



She admitted there were moments of doubt when she wondered if dedication and effort were enough to stand out in a system dominated by privilege, underlining her statement with the hashtag #Struggleisreal.

On the work front, Payal Rajput remains busy with several upcoming projects. She is currently working on the Telugu film VenkataLachimi, directed by Muni and planned for a multilingual release in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi. She also plays the female

lead opposite Legend Saravanan in his second Tamil film, directed by R.S. Durai Senthilkumar, and featuring Shaam and Andrea in key roles.

The big-budget project, inspired by real-life events and set against the backdrop of Thoothukudi, promises a high-octane action experience. With music by Gibran and cinematography by S. Venkatesh, the film is progressing steadily, reaffirming Payal Rajput's resolve to move forward despite industry hurdles.

Rs 17,000 cr urban push under CM Revanth Reddy

In the two years since coming to power, the Congress government has allocated Rs 17,000 crore for the development of cities and towns across the State, undertaking 3,994 works in 130 municipalities.

According to officials of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has special focus on the urban local bodies in the state as the Municipal Minister.

He has ensured these funds have been systematically utilised for the construction of roads and highways, flood management and control works, prevention of pollution in lakes, provision of amenities in colonies and slums, development of public parks and improvement of water supply and sewage systems.

Since assuming office, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has held the portfolio of Municipal Administration. The Chief Minister has shown special initiative for the development of municipalities and has undertaken unprecedented reforms in



the Municipal Department. These reforms have been implemented to facilitate administrative ease, development of all towns, improved civic services, and better supervision. According to officials, the MAUD department, which was a single department since the time of the undivided state, has been divided into two. The GHMC, municipalities and corporations in the Telangana Core Urban Region (CURE) have been constituted as an urban division, and a Special Chief Secretary to the government has been appointed for it. Municipalities and corporations located outside the CURE have been constituted into a separate category, and another senior IAS officer has been appointed to oversee

them.

With a futuristic vision of developing all cities and towns in the state on the lines of Hyderabad, the Chief Minister has formulated the plans. It is noteworthy that the people's government has released Rs 996.27 crore in stamp duty funds, which had been pending since 2019, for urban development. Hyderabad Travel Guide Earlier, many development works could not be started due to the non-release of the state's share of funds on time.

With the people's government releasing the state's share promptly, all the works that were pending for so long have now commenced at the ground level, said a senior official.

The government has completed the necessary key reforms under the State Special Assistance for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. As a result, Telangana qualified to receive Rs. 1,698 crore as reform-linked assistance.

Allocations over two years total Rs 17,472.22 crore, including Rs 9,387.11 crore from the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) for 2,374 works across 130 municipalities."

Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Authority scheme of Rs. 1,896.96 crore for 1,166 works in 85 municipalities, under the transfer duty Rs 462.19 crore in 110 municipalities, under Swachh Bharat Mission- Rs 462.19 crore for 347 works in 236 municipalities. (Of which the state's share is Rs 286.20 crore and the Central government's share is Rs 175.99 crore). Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme Rs 4,729.69 crore for 107 works in 109 municipalities.

Medaram Jatara hundis fetch over Rs 6.04 cr

Hyderabad: Over Rs 6.04 crore was received through hundi offerings during the Sammakka Saralamma Jatara at Medaram. The counting of cash offerings continued for the second consecutive day on Friday. On the first day, Thursday, an amount of Rs 2.49 crore was counted from 125 hundis. Hyderabad Property Listings On Friday, 160 hundis were opened, yielding Rs 3.54 crore. In

addition, foreign currency amounting to Rs 63,436 was also collected. A total of 780 hundis were placed at the Medaram Jatara site. These included 309 iron hundis each at the Sammakka and Saralamma pedestals, 81 hundis each at the Govindaraju and Pagididdaraju pedestals, along with three cloth hundis and three rice hundis. Officials said the counting process was car-



ried out following standard supervision. procedures under tight

T20 WC: USA's Harmeet Singh cherishes homecoming at Wankhede Stadium for India clash

New Delhi: When Harmeet Singh steps onto the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday evening, draped in the navy blue and red of the USA jersey when they take on India, the left-arm spin bowling all-rounder's life will come full circle.

Saturday's clash on day one of the Men's T20 World Cup will see Harmeet return to play cricket in the city where he spent the first 27 years of his life chasing a dream that seemed perpetually out of reach till a move to the USA made it possible.

Harmeet's journey from Mumbai's domestic circuit to winning the 2012 U19 World Cup with India and now representing the USA at the Men's T20 World Cup is a story of reinvention, resilience, and the unbelievable fact that life can indeed come full circle.

"Playing in Wankhede has always been special. Growing up in Mumbai and playing most of my cricket in Mumbai till the first 27 years of my life, it means a lot coming back to Mumbai and playing a game at Wankhede, and that too a World Cup game.

"So, it's very special, firstly personally, but then when I look at it as a whole event, it means a lot for the USA also as a cricket-playing nation – getting that world stage to show what the team is all about and what cricket means in the USA and how hard everybody has worked to be here," recalled Harmeet in an exclusive conversation with IANS ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Once hailed by Australian legend Ian Chappell as a promising talent, Harmeet's career was marred by controversy – spot-fixing allegations from which he was later cleared by the BCCI and being booked for driving a car on a railway station platform. Though he cleared his name and continued to perform – his last first-class game in India saw him pick up a six-wicket haul – the doors to national selection remained firmly shut.

"I needed that change because what was happening in India was like a stamp: no matter how much I performed, even my last first-class game was a six-wicket haul, and that didn't move anyone. No selector was moving, and it was like I was performing and no one was watching. When I made the change, I did the same things that I was doing there. It's not like I have become consistent or started doing something different overnight," he said.

The move to the USA six years ago changed everything. Not his game – the same controlled left-arm spin bowling and chipping in



with handy batting – but the reception to it. "Whatever teams I play for in any tournament, I try to win championships. I have been able to do that and create an impact. It's not easy, you also know, to be consistent in the T20 format as a bowler or all-rounder. "Wherever I have played, whichever league I have played, I have always done well only. Mostly, once I made that change, the same performance was only getting appreciation. Growing up in Mumbai, there was no other way to get into the Mumbai team other than performing, and I knew how to perform," he said.

Since moving to the USA, Harmeet has thrived – becoming first pick in the Major League Cricket draft during his cooling-off period, leading Seattle Orcas to the finals in his debut season, and establishing himself as a crucial all-rounder for the national team.

In the 2024 T20 World Cup, he demonstrated his value with 2-24 against South Africa, dismissing Quinton de Kock and David Miller, before contributing a vital 38 off 22 balls with the bat, though it went in vain. His recent form has been equally impressive: 21 wickets in 21 T20 games since 2025, with an economy rate of 7 and a strike rate of 19.4.

"Since I moved to the USA, there is always appreciation and reward towards the performance. It's not like aap andhere mei teer chalaye jaa rahe ho aur kahi lag hi nahi raha (You are shooting arrows in the dark and you can't hit anywhere).

"Since that thing has changed in my life, it has helped me a lot because games are live; no one can say whether you have performed or not. It doesn't go unnoticed – it is always noticed. Since then, it has only been nice, and it has worked for me. I am glad I made that decision and made a career out of the sport I love," added Harmeet.

Harmeet also has the company of

his former Mumbai friends – pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and batting all-rounder Shubham Ranjane. The diversity of the USA squad – players from Caribbean, South African, Pakistani, and Indian origins – has forged an identity built on fearlessness and mutual respect. "The Caribbean players bring their way of playing cricket, as do South Africans and Pakistanis, and we Indians know what we bring to the table.

"That common ground is playing fearless cricket, and that's been our brand of cricket we have been following. We respect the opponents, but we don't put anybody on a pedestal, especially when we step on the field, and then off the field there is huge respect. But then we want to win almost every game we play.

"All the experience we carry from the Indian turf gives us a head start in the fact that we know the conditions and what to do and share with our players. All that helps a lot, and hopefully, with that little bit of experience which we are able to share, we can use it to our advantage.

"From the last World Cup till now, even in League 2, we have done well; we are on top, and we have been winning most series wherever we go. It's only getting stronger – the bond and winning always helps. It makes us feel that we are doing something right, and it's been working for us. I am very excited for this World Cup because we have only become stronger and better as a team," said Harmeet.

That fearlessness will be tested to its limits when the USA faces India at the Wankhede, even as Harmeet is scrambling to secure seats even for his own family and friends in Mumbai. But rather than being overawed by the occasion or their opponents, Harmeet and his teammates are approaching the tournament with quiet confidence.

"People think we exceeded, let's say, expectations at the last

World Cup. But we did not, if you ask our 15 players. We also gave a tough game to India and South Africa, and they were the finalists of the 2024 World Cup. I don't think as a team, we think that we are less than anyone. On our day, we all are match winners, and we can win a game on our own, over anybody.

"Again, to set boundaries, we will limit ourselves. I am not setting any boundaries for this World Cup. It suits an Indian or a South African or an Australian player to say that, okay, we will go out there and win the World Cup. But for us, I feel I'm not setting any boundaries because we don't want to limit ourselves," he said.

He refuses to set limits on how far the USA can go. "We don't want to just make the Super 8s. Why not the semi-final? Why not the final? Why not win it? The way we are playing cricket and the way we are together, I feel if we keep doing the right things under pressure, handling pressure will be the most important thing in India, more than showing your skill set. If we handle pressure well, then there are no limits," he said.

Amidst the mega-event frenzy, Harmeet is keenly aware of the challenges posed by Indian conditions – smaller boundaries, flatter wickets, and the unique characteristics of venues like Wankhede.

"Sometimes Wankhede can be different because it has not had a lot of games recently, so it might be a fresh wicket, and we don't know how flat it will be. Normally, in white-ball cricket, they give flatter wickets.

"But because it's a World Cup, they also want the wickets to last. A lot of games are going to happen, so maybe they'll give a lot of grass covering, so then plans change. There are a lot of things, but I'm not fixing up a plan in mind. It's more like keeping it flexible, so that if this happens, we'll do this, or if that happens, we'll do that. It's about having my plans in place and then manoeuvring as and when needed," he said.

His approach to the format reflects a philosophy honed through years of experience across multiple leagues and conditions. "T20 cricket is about execution. Initially I didn't believe in luck, but T20 cricket is a little bit about luck also. Mostly I try to keep my plans in place and try to execute them to my best ability, and then I don't complicate things much because the more you complicate, the more you are going to find yourself in trouble. T20 cricket is about clarity – it's about expressing, being fearless,

and executing under pressure."

Beyond personal redemption, Harmeet sees this World Cup as crucial for USA cricket's development. "We coach a lot of kids at the grassroots level, and we are already connected there. We are all rooted with the smaller kids in America who are picking up the bat and ball. It really means a lot to all of us.

"We keep inspiring the next generation and motivating them to play the sport. If there is money in infrastructure and sport, a lot of American parents will allow their kids to play and pursue the sport also. Right now it's more, let's say, more passionate kids who love the sport, and they are playing," he said.

He draws parallels with India's transformation in the early 2000s when administrative vision and investment revolutionised the sport. "The USA has everything – it just needs good administrators, people with vision, investors, and infrastructure. If all that happens, the USA will probably be the next Australia.

"Acceptance has happened; USOPC is getting aligned, and it will help us a lot. Athletes will be taken care of. Infrastructure is the roadblock between the USA being a full member nation versus where we are right now. The talent and pool of players are there – we just need the structure."

As he prepares to walk out at Wankhede Stadium wearing the USA colours, Harmeet will cherish a very special homecoming, built on the back of chasing his dreams and the willingness to cross geographical boundaries. "Each one of us in the team has their own story, and everyone has come a long way from where we all started. That's also what America is about, the land of opportunities.

"The guys who were deprived of opportunities in their own countries made a move, came to America with new aspirations and are still playing the same sport. Everybody has written their own script. Here, we are playing our second World Cup together, and playing it in India will mean even more because Wankhede is, luckily, my home this time.

"So, it means even more personally. But it's not just about me – it's more about the team. It's more about the journey of all of us, and then we go out there, and I'm hoping that we are able to express ourselves in our best way," he concluded.

Varun Dhawan shares BTS video of 'Border 2' director giving final touches to his look

Mumbai: Actor Varun Dhawan has shared a behind-the-scenes glimpse from the sets of his upcoming film Border 2, offering fans a look at director Anurag Singh putting the final touches on his character.

Varun took to Instagram Stories to re-share a video originally posted by his fan club. The clip shows director Anurag Singh closely supervising Varun's appearance as Major Hoshiar Singh Dahiya, adjusting details ahead of a scene. Captioning the video, the actor wrote, "My

director @anurag_singh_films giving the finishing touches."

Border 2 is based on real events from the 1971 India-Pakistan war. The film is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series in association with J.P. Dutta's J.P. Films. It is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, J.P. Dutta and Nidhi Dutta, and directed by Anurag Singh.

The film follows the legacy of J.P. Dutta's iconic 1997 war drama Border, which featured an ensemble cast including Sunny



Deol, Jackie Shroff, Suniel Shetty, Akshaye Khanna, Puneet Issar, Sudesh Berry and

Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, which also stars Pooja Hegde and Mrunal Thakur. The film is

Kulbhushan Kharbana, along with Tabu, Pooja Bhatt, Rakhee Gulzar, Shabani Mukherjee, Sapna Bedi and Rajiv Goswami.

Apart from Border 2, Varun Dhawan will next be seen in Hai

scheduled for a theatrical release on June 5, after being postponed from its earlier release date of April 10, 2026. The title of the film is believed to be inspired by the popular song Hai Jawani Toh Pyaar Hona Hai from David Dhawan's hit film Biwi No.1, which starred Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor and Sushmita Sen. The upcoming film is said to be a lighthearted romantic drama that revolves around a man who faces repeated rejection in love but eventually finds unexpected divine help.